

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 8 July 1831—*for*,

- "COPIES of any TREASURY MINUTES and CORRESPONDENCE on the subject of the recent or intended Changes in the Mode of Preparation, Publication, and Supply of the IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS: "
- "Of the Names and Places of Abode of the Agents hitherto employed by the said Commissioners for the Supply of these BOOKS, whether to the National Schools or to the Public, with the Rate and Amount of their Remuneration, the Value of Books Supplied to, or Sold by such Agents, and the Amount received as the produce of such Sales, during each of the last Ten Years: "
- "And, of the Names of any Persons who have been appointed in consequence of the New Arrangements, the Nature of their Duties, and the Amount of their Salaries."

- I.—COPIES of any TREASURY MINUTES and CORRESPONDENCE on the subject of the recent or intended Changes in the Mode of Preparation, Publication, and Supply of the IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS.

The Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to the Commissioners of National Education, *Ireland*.

Treasury Chambers,
8 July 1831.

My Lords and Gentlemen,
LORD JOHN RUSSELL having brought under the notice of this Board a correspondence between Mr. Longman and Mr. Murray, and himself and your Board, relative to the sale of school books intended for the use of the Irish National Schools, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that my Lords, upon a consideration of all the circumstances of the case, are of opinion that the school books printed for your Board should be limited to the supply required for the use of the Irish National Schools.

My Lords, however, think it expedient that measures should be adopted by which the sale of the same school books in an authentic form, and at reasonable prices, to the public at large, should be continued, and they request that a plan for giving effect to such an arrangement may be prepared by your Board, and submitted to their Lordships for their consideration.

The Commissioners of
National Education, *Ireland*.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. Cornwall Lewis.*

REPLY.

Education Office, Dublin,
19 July 1831.

Sir,

We have had the honour of laying before the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland your communication of the 3d instant, stating that the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury are of opinion that the school books printed for this Board should be limited to the supply required for the use of the Irish National Schools; but that their Lordships think it expedient that measures should be adopted by which the sale of the same school books, in an authentic
gft. A form,

form, and at reasonable prices, to the public at large, should be continued; and request that a plan for giving effect to such arrangement may be prepared by this Board, and submitted to their Lordships for consideration.

In reply, we are directed to state that the Commissioners have determined, after full deliberation, on complying with their Lordships' request; and we will communicate with you again when the Commissioners shall have had sufficient time to consider whatever arrangement they may deem it advisable to recommend for the consideration of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury.

G. Cornwall Lewis, Esq. M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Maurice Croze,*
James Kelly,
Secretaries.

The Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to the Commissioners of National
Education, Ireland.

Treasury Chambers,
14 July 1851.

My Lords and Gentlemen,
I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit herewith for your information, copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Committee of Council on Education, dated 4th instant, relative to the sale of the school-books published by you to the public at large, together with the copy of their Lordships' minute thereon.

The Commissioners of
National Education, Ireland.

I am, &c.
(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan.*

Enclosures.

Sir,

4 July 1851.

In reply to your letter of the 3d instant, enclosing a copy of the Treasury Minute, dated the 1st instant, relative to the sale of the school-books published by the Irish Commissioners of Education to the public at large, I am directed to inquire whether my Lords are right in presuming that, until a plan has been matured by the Irish Commissioners, and finally settled to the satisfaction of the Lords of the Treasury, for the continued supply of the same books through some other agency than at present, but in an authentic form and at reasonable prices, no interruption will be made in the supply of these books, pursuant to their Lordships' Minute, dated 18th December 1847.

G. Cornwall Lewis, Esq. M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. R. W. Lloyd.*

Court of Treasury Minute, dated 4th July 1851.

Writes to the Secretary to the Committee of Council on Education that the Lords of the Committee have rightly understood the intentions of my Lords.

Transmit copy of this letter and minute to the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland for their information.

The Committee of Council on Education to the Commissioners of National
Education in Ireland.

Gentlemen,

7 July 1851.

I AM directed by the Lords of the Education Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council to request that you will inform the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland that my Lords have been furnished with a copy of the Treasury Minute, dated 1st July 1851, relative to the sale of the Irish National School-books to the public at large, and calling upon the Commissioners to submit to the Lords of the Treasury for their consideration, a plan for giving effect to such an arrangement.

I am to express a hope on behalf of my Lords of the Education Committee of the Privy Council, that the Commissioners in Ireland may find it to be in their
power

power to allow my Lords an opportunity of seeing and of offering to the Commissioners any remarks that may be deemed desirable upon the plan of the Commissioners before it is submitted to the Lords of the Treasury.

In the meantime I am to inform you that the Lords of the Treasury understand that the supply of the Irish School-books, pursuant to the minute of the Committee of Council on Education, dated 18th December 1847, will not be interrupted, as you will gather from the enclosed copy of a letter from the Treasury, in reply to a reference upon that subject.

The Secretaries,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) R. R. W. Lingens.

REPLY.

Education Office, Dublin,
19 July 1851.

Sir,

We have had the honour of laying before the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland your letter of the 7th instant, requesting that the Commissioners would afford the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education an opportunity of seeing and offering to the Commissioners any remarks that may be deemed advisable, upon whatever plan they may decide on recommending to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, for continuing the sale of the Irish National School-books, in an authentic form, and at reasonable prices, to the public at large, the books printed for this Board being limited to the supply of the national schools in Ireland, in accordance with the minute of the Treasury.

In reply, we are to acquaint you that the Commissioners will feel much pleasure in complying with the request of their Lordships, when they shall have had full time to deliberate upon what plan they may recommend to the consideration of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury.

We have, &c.
(signed) Maurice Crowe, } Secretaries.
James Kelly, }

R. R. W. Lingens, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

The Committee of Council on Education to the Commissioners of National
Education in Ireland.

Gentlemen,

5 September 1851.

WITH reference to your letter, dated 19th July 1851, and to the preceding correspondence, I beg leave to request that you will be so good as to lay before the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland the enclosed copy of a letter, dated 1st August 1851, from the Secretary to the Roman Catholic Poor School Committee in Great Britain. This Committee is the recognised medium of communication between the Roman Catholics in Great Britain and the Government in matters of elementary education for the working classes, and the communication is of importance accordingly.

I have, &c.
(signed) R. R. W. Lingens.

The Secretaries,
&c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure.)

Sir,

Brook Green House, Hammersmith, 1 August 1851.

THE attention of the Poor School Committee has been called to a pamphlet issued from Her Majesty's Stationery Office in Dublin, respecting the publication of school-books by Government, at the public expense.

The complaints made on this subject relate exclusively to the books of the Irish Commissioners; and reports are current to the effect that the circulation of the books in question will no longer be encouraged by the Committee of Council on Education.

It became, therefore, the imperative duty of the Poor School Committee to represent that although applications are understood to have been made from at least two quarters, for the insertion upon their Lordships' schedule of books issued by Catholic authors, and commonly used in schools, yet no such books have been added to the authorised list, which, with the

exception of the Irish publications, comprises no works available for the elementary instruction of Roman Catholic children. If, then, the Irish books are struck off the list, Roman Catholic schools will be deprived of all benefit under their Lordships' book grants, and will, so far, be again excluded from participation in the Parliamentary grant for education.

And, short of this result, if the agitation which has been raised should succeed in wresting from Government the power to furnish schools in Great Britain with books at the present moderate prices, and in procuring for any private publishers license to add to those prices a large per centage for their own profit, the progress of education in primary schools throughout the kingdom, and more particularly in Roman Catholic schools, and in workhouse schools containing Roman Catholic children, will be seriously impeded by the increased difficulty which the managers will experience in buying the necessary supplies of suitable books.

As representing a large, and poor, and ill-instructed class of Her Majesty's British subjects, and as co-operating heartily with the measures of the Committee of Council, the Poor School Committee cannot refrain from entreating their Lordships to refuse assent to any proposals that would either exclude from their schedule, or raise in price, the Irish Commissioners' school books, which, apart from the circumstance of their being, as stated above, the only books on the list available for Roman Catholic schools, they regard with much estimation and experimental use, both as being *per se* the best elementary series in the language, and also as most suitable for adoption in any possible scheme of national education.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Scott Nanssey Stokes*,
Secretary to the Catholic Poor School Committee.

The Secretary,
Committee of Council on Education.

REPLY.

Sir,

Education Office, Dublin, 15 September 1851.

We are directed by the Commissioners of National Education to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, enclosing a copy of a letter dated 1st August 1851, from the Secretary to the Roman Catholic Poor School Committee in Great Britain.

In reply, we are to state, that the communication is referred to a Committee of the National Board, appointed to draw up a plan for supplying schools, not connected with the Board, with Irish National School-books at a moderate price; and that, in making any suggestions, the Committee will not lose sight of this important document.

The Commissioners further direct us to suggest the propriety of the publication of the letter of the 1st August, by the Catholic Poor School Committee, as a means of counteracting any misconception that may rest on the public mind with respect to the former proceedings connected with this subject.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Maurice Cross*,
James Kelly, } Secretaries.

The Secretary
Committee of Council on Education.

The Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland.

Treasury Chambers,
22 Nov. 1851.

My Lords and Gentlemen,
With reference to the letter from your secretaries, dated 19th July last, on the subject of the sale of the school-books intended for the use of the Irish National Schools, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request that you will have the goodness to inform my Lords whether you have come to any decision as to the arrangements which you deem it advisable to recommend to the consideration of this Board.

I am, &c.

(signed) *G. Cornwall Lewis*.

The Commissioners of
National Education, Ireland.

The Commissioners of National Education in Ireland to the Committee of Council on Education.

Dear Sir,

Education Office, Dublin, 20 December 1851.

I HAVE just received your note of the 20th instant, enclosing one from Lord Lansdowne of the 20th; and, as requested, I now beg leave to forward another copy of the Report of the Committee, on the question relative to the sale of the school-books.

I have most earnestly to request that you will favour me with any observations or suggestions relative to the enclosed, at the earliest possible time, as the Treasury continue to press the Commissioners for their reply on the important subject referred to.

I remain, &c.
(signed) Maurice Cross,
Secretary.

R. R. W. Lingen, Esq., &c.

REPLY.

Sir,

7 January 1852.

ADVERTING to your letter of the 30th ult. and its enclosure, I have the honour to submit the following considerations to the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland:

1. It appears to be conceded, as a point of administrative policy, that the trade objection is not to be held to apply to such measures as the Irish Commissioners may see fit to take for the production and publication of books to be used in schools under their own Board.

2. The trade objection is held to apply *apud facta*, and apart from all statements of profit and loss, to the continued sale of books by the Commissioners in the general market.

3. The extent of this sale has hitherto served as a set-off to the expenses of the Commissioners, in the shape of profit on the books disposed of, and also in the shape of reduction in the terms on which the supply of so large a demand could be contracted for.

4. The public has had the advantage of obtaining a series of school books, admitted to be equal, and generally considered to be superior, to any others that are published, at a price far below the charge commonly made for such books.

It is with the last consideration only that the Committee of Council on Education has to deal officially, under the minute of 18th December 1847, on behalf of some 5,000 schools under Government inspection in England and Wales, and, in some sense, generally on behalf of the education of the labouring classes in Great Britain, for the promotion of which their Lordships have been constituted a Committee.

So long as the Irish books are not supplied to the promoters of schools on worse terms than by the Commissioners, the details of the particular arrangement to be made for the purpose is of secondary moment.

It appears, however, to the Committee that these terms are likely to be worse, in proportion as the contract for the supply of the public is separated from the contract for the supply of the Commissioners, and in proportion as the system of checks and precautions, which now singly suffices for both supplies, has to be doubled.

The Committee of Council would therefore suggest for consideration whether (supposing for a moment that the matter were *res integra*) the tenders to be invited should not include the supply of the public as well as the supply of the Commissioners; in fact, it is not apparent why the Commissioners and the public should be distinguished in these tenders. The aid of the Commissioners to their own schools is expressed in the reduced price at which (covering the loss from the Parliamentary grant) they sell the books, not in any more advantageous terms in procuring them. The Commissioners are owners of certain copyrights for the immediate benefit of certain schools in Ireland; but they are enabled to increase this benefit to its immediate objects by extending it to others.

others. So long as the Commissioners do not themselves sell beyond the pale of their own schools, and so long as it is open to all persons to tender for the contract, the trade objection is met. The Commissioners in that case would purchase, like other promoters of schools, from the contractor.

By this arrangement the precautions which the Commissioners must in any case take for the supply of their own schools will suffice for all. One contract only is needed, and on it is concentrated all the cheapening influence of the aggregate demand.

The existing contract with Messrs. Grierson may be such as to interpose a difficulty in the interval between this time and 31st December 1856. The difficulty might be met if the Treasury were willing to sanction the present system up to that time, provisionally accepting the proofs given by the Commissioners that the public is not supplied by them at such a rate as excludes a fair profit, and requiring that, at the end of that time, the contractor to be then accepted upon open tender, and not the Commissioners, shall henceforth supply the public. Or, again, the difficulty might be met, if Messrs. Grierson's contract were opened at once, they (with the approval of the Treasury), consenting to appoint an arbitrator, who with the Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery-office, and an umpire to be jointly nominated, should, after the new contract had been concluded, assess the amount of compensation to be made. It is probable that the speedier settlement of the question to be had by the latter plan renders it the more advisable of the two.

It is impossible to overrate the educational importance of continuing, or increasing, the cheapness of the Irish books to the general public, and the Committee of Council suggests whether a single contract, and a single supervision, is not best calculated, if not indispensable, to promote this end; the Irish Commissioners, who must make and superintend it, in part at least, for themselves, undertaking to make and superintend it wholly for themselves and for the public.

Maurice Cross, Esq., &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) R. R. W. Lingard.

The Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers,
16 Jan. 1852.

WITH reference to the letter from this Board of the 3d July last, on the subject of the sale of school books intended for the use of the Irish National Schools, and to the reply thereto from Messrs. Cross & Kelly of the 19th July, stating that the Commissioners of National Education would communicate to this Board, when they had sufficient time to consider whatever arrangement it might be desirable to recommend with respect to the sale of such books, and also with reference to the letter addressed to you from this Board on the 22d November last, calling your attention again to the subject.

I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state to you that my Lords consider it highly advisable that whatever arrangements are intended to be made should be carried into effect with as little delay as possible, and therefore they would request to be informed whether you have as yet determined upon any arrangement which you would submit for the consideration of this Board, or to be apprised of what steps you have taken with a view of coming to some decision upon the subject.

The Commissioners of
National Education, Ireland.

I have, &c.
(signed) G. Cornwall Lewis.

REPLY.

Education-office, Dublin,
24 January 1852.

Sir,

REFERRING to your letter of the 15th instant, we have now the honour to forward the Report of the Committee appointed by the Commissioners of National Education to frame suggestions for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, as to the best mode of supplying, in certain quantities or in single copies, the Irish National School-books, in an authentic form, and at reasonable prices, to the public at large, the Irish National Schools excepted.

The Report is accompanied by two returns, the nature of which is therein specified.

The Commissioners trust that whatever arrangement may be sanctioned by the Treasury, the books (with the few exceptions set forth in the return), will not be sold at higher rates than those at which they are supplied by the Commissioners to the Committee of Privy Council on Education, and to all schools for the poor unconnected with the National Board.

With regard to the price of single copies of the books for private use, the Commissioners have been enabled to make a large reduction in consequence of the present contract with the Messrs. Grierson for printing, being upwards of 60 per cent. lower than the previous contract, and there being also a reduction in the cost of binding.

The Committee of Council on National Education having made a request that the Commissioners of National Education would afford them an opportunity of seeing the Report, and of making any remarks thereon that they might deem advisable, the Commissioners felt it right to comply with their application, and we have the pleasure to enclose a copy of the reply which has been received from the Secretary of the Committee.

The Commissioners desire us to state, that they highly approve (in all material points) of the suggestions contained in Mr. Lingen's valuable communication, which would have been embodied in the Report of the Committee, had his letter reached them in time.

The Commissioners beg to express the hope that their Lordships, after a careful consideration of the Report, will come to the conclusion that the plan recommended by the Committee is the only one calculated to secure at once the three great objects; viz. reasonable prices, a certainty of a regular and abundant supply of books to meet the increasing demand, and the accuracy of the text.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Maurice Cross,*
James Kelly, } Secretaries.

G. Cornewall Lewis, Esq., M.P.
&c. &c.

Barrow of the Committee appointed to draw up a Plan for the Sale of Irish National School Books in England, &c. &c., in an authentic form, and at reasonable prices.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

THE Commissioners of National Education in Ireland were requested by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in a letter from G. Cornewall Lewis, Esq., dated 3 July 1851, to suggest a plan by which the sale of the Irish National School-books, in an authentic form, and at reasonable prices, might be continued to the public at large, (the Irish National Schools excepted).

The important question referred to in Mr. Lewis's communication has been maturely considered by the Commissioners.

Two members of the Board, namely, his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, and James O'Ferrall, Esq., were of opinion that the subject was not one on which the Commis-

sioners, as a body, should offer any suggestion. The remaining members, however, felt, that although their proper duty, with regard to the publication of school-books, terminated when they transmitted to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on the 9th May 1851, a statement in reference to the correspondence of Messrs. Longman & Co. and John Murray, with the Right honourable Lord John Russell, yet being anxious to afford every information in their power, they deemed it advisable to refer the matter to a Special Committee.

The members of this Committee having met frequently to deliberate on the subject, have made the annexed Report, which has received the approval of the Commissioners, with the exception of the Archbishop of Dublin and Mr. O'Ferrill, to whom it was not submitted.

Educational Office, Dublin, January 1852.

REPORT.

The Committee conclude that the Commissioners will continue, as heretofore, to print and supply to their own schools such books as they have already published, and may from time to time hereafter publish, as most suitable for carrying out a comprehensive system of elementary education, and they beg leave to suggest that no alteration in other respects shall be made in the present arrangements until the termination of Messrs. Grieson's contract with the Stationery Office on the 31st December 1855, or if made before that time, then they strongly recommend that the claims of Messrs. Grieson for compensation shall be duly considered, and they trust that it may be favourably entertained.

The Committee recommend, as a general and governing principle to be observed in devising or framing any alteration in the present system of supplying national school books to the poor in Great Britain and the Colonies, and to the public, that the essential and distinguishing characteristics of the books shall be scrupulously maintained without change or alteration, and that the general objects, for the advantage of the public, which it has been the study of the Commissioners to secure, and which are to some extent stated and shown in their statement in their reply to Messrs. Longman and Murray, shall be duly regarded.

The Committee accordingly suggest that fitting and efficient means shall be devised and adopted:

1. To maintain and preserve the non-sectarian character of the school-books, and to prevent the introduction into them of any matter which might be offensive to the member of any religious denomination.

2. To have each book printed page for page, and line for line, with the books published by the Commissioners, a perfect correspondence in this respect of the books to be used by each class in a school being found practically advantageous in teaching.

3. To ensure a regular and unfailing supply of all the books at the lowest price, compatible with a reasonable regard to the fair remuneration of the publishers.

4. In case the Commissioners shall see fit to alter any of their books in any of the following respects; (that is to say,)

1st. By correcting typographical or grammatical errors, or by such verbal alterations as may be considered necessary to express more precisely the idea which any particular passage is intended to convey; or,

2nd. By any material additions or subtractions, that due means shall be taken, whether the book is stereotyped or not, to ensure the adoption of all such alterations, in all copies of the altered books respectively to be thereafter printed; and that the former class of alterations shall be made without increasing the price, and as to the latter class, that any change of price shall be ascertained and determined by a given and fixed rate or scale, in accordance with the general contract, and proportioned to the addition or subtraction caused by the alteration.

5. That due and proper provision and arrangements shall be made for printing any new books to be published by the Commissioners, with like regard to the purposes and objects hereinbefore stated, and at rates to be ascertained by reference to the general contract. That for the several purposes hereinbefore and hereinafter mentioned or referred to, the last edition for the time being of the several school-books now or hereafter to be published by the Commissioners, authenticated by the signature of the secretaries, shall from time to time be deposited in Her Majesty's Stationery-office, and that the copy of the last edition of each book for the time being so deposited, shall be the standard copy thereof.

The mode of carrying out these suggestions will properly devolve on those who may be hereafter intrusted with the arrangements and supervision of the contemplated alterations; but the Committee venture still further to submit,—

6. That

6. That the Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery-office, or some other competent authority, shall be charged with the present arrangement and future supervision of any system to be adopted; and they suggest that proper preliminary steps shall be taken by him to procure tenders (the lowest to be accepted) for supplying, during a limited period (say seven years), all the books now and hereafter to be published by the Commissioners, on conditions based upon the principles hereinbefore referred to, and at rates and prices for each book respectively, not to exceed a maximum price to be specified in the advertisement for tenders. To assist in determining the proper maximum price for each book, the Committee subjoin a schedule to which they refer, shewing: The title of each book; the cost of production under the present contract; the price proposed to be fixed at which the books shall be sold in certain quantities; the profit at these prices to the Commissioners; the present prices to the public, with the rate of profit thereon; and the proposed reduction on these prices to the public, for single copies, with the rate of profit thereon; also, a statement showing the probable demand in one year for each book.

Schedule, marked
(A.)
Statement, marked
(B.)

7. That the party whose tender shall be accepted, shall, during the period to be specified, be licensed by Government; and shall have the exclusive right to print and publish the entire series of the National School-books of the Commissioners, for supplying the public generally, and all schools other than those of the Commissioners, the managers of which may desire to use those books; and that in consideration of such licence, he shall be bound to supply the entire series, to observe prescribed and pre-arranged conditions and regulations, based on the principles and framed with the objects herein suggested; and that in the event of controversy arising as to the due performance of his contract, or as to the construction thereof, the decision of the Comptroller of the Stationery-office, or other competent person to be specified in the advertisement for tenders, shall be conclusive.

8. That the advertisement for tenders, and the tender and contract of the person whose tender shall be accepted, shall be properly framed to carry out the specified conditions and regulations.

9. That due regard shall be had to make all the books printed pursuant to the contract exact reprints of the standard copy, and correct and accurate in all respects; of the same form and style; type of the same size and character; printed page for page and line for line; paper at least as good quality; and bound and finished in all respects in a manner not inferior to the standard copy.

10. That to aid the Comptroller, an officer shall be appointed by the Treasury, or the contractor, as examiner of the National School-books, who shall examine and compare with the standard copy the proof-sheets of every new impression of each book, and before publication approve thereof, and testifying his approval by his signature, to be afterwards stamped or printed on the title-page; and that he shall be paid by the Treasury, or contractor, a fixed sum annually for such examination and comparison, at a rate to be fixed by the Treasury, and specified in the advertisement for tenders.

11. That the party whose tender shall be accepted, shall be required to appoint an agent, or maintain a dépôt in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, Dublin, or in such other places in Great Britain and Ireland, as may be considered necessary, and to keep such agents or dépôts constantly supplied with the entire series of the books.

12. That due control be retained for effectuating all the objects contemplated, and that the contractor be duly bound to perform the contract.

13. That six months at least shall be allowed for the contractor to bring out the first supply of books, from the date of his tender being accepted.

Education Office, Dublin,
16 January 1852.

(signed) *Maurice Cross,*
James Kelly, } Secretaries.

(A.) IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS.

RETURN, showing:—1. The Cost Price of 10,000 of each of the above Books to the Commissioners, according to their present Contract with Messrs. Grierison for Printing, as furnished by Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 2. The Maximum Price proposed to be fixed at which these Books shall be sold in Numbers; not less than specified against each. 3. The Profit thereon above the Cost to the Commissioners. 4. The Price at which these Books are at present sold to the Public by the Commissioners through their Agents. 5. The Profit thereon at these Prices. 6. The Maximum Price proposed to be fixed for the Sale of single Copies. 7. The Profit thereon.

TITLE OF BOOK.	Cost Price of 10,000 Copies	Proposed Price in Numbers.			Prices per Single Copy.			
		Not less than	Price per Copy.	Profit per Cent.	Com- missioners' present Prices.	Profit per Cent.	Proposed Prices.	Profit per Cent.
	£. s. d.		2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
First Book of Lessons - -	90 3 11	12	- 1	100½	- 2	312½	- 1½	234
Second " - -	95 12 4	12	- 4	74½	- 5	161½	- 5	134½
Sequel to ditto, No. 1 - -	110 19 11	5	- 5	88½	- 9	238½	- 7	188½
" " No. 2 - -	111 19 0	5	- 5	86	- 9	234½	- 7	189½
Third Book of Lessons - -	190 4 7	5	- 8	57½	1 9	192½	- 11	161½
Fourth " - -	238 14 0	4	- 9	57	1 4	179½	1 -	124½
Supplement to " - -	286 8 2	4	- 11	51½	1 8	194½	1 2	125
Fifth Book - -	272 15 6	4	- 11	55	1 8	205½	1 2	149½
Girls' " - -	272 15 8	4	- 10	52½	1 6	174½	1 2	126
* Biographical Sketches	346 18 1	3	1 -	39½	1 8	147½	1 6	122½
* Selections from British Poets, 2 vols. - -	335 18 1	3	1 -	39½	1 8	147½	1 6	120½
		each.						
* Art of Reading - -	190 - -	3	- 10	112½	1 9	197½	1 2	127½
English Grammar - -	95 12 4	12	- 4	74½	- 8	248½	- 6	186½
Key to " - -	35 3 0	3	- 1	65½	- 2	93½	- 1½	78½
* Epitome, &c. - -	360 14 1	3	1 4	51½	2 6	215	9 -	125
Compendium, &c. - -	100 1 5	4	- 5	108	- 9	274½	- 6	185
First Arithmetic - -	95 14 7	12	- 4	95	- 7	235	- 6	209½
Key to " - -	95 12 4	3	- 4	74½	- 7	205	- 6	175½
* Arithmetic in Theory, &c. -	203 - -	3	1 -	95½	1 8	177½	1 6	150
Book keeping - -	112 8 2	4	- 5	35½	- 8	190½	- 7	179
Key to ditto - -	108 7 4	4	- 5	32½	- 8	207½	- 7	181½
* Elements of Geometry - -	107 - -	4	- 5	138½	- 8	211½	- 7	179½
* Mensuration - -	215 - -	4	- 10	80½	1 4	247	1 -	181½
Appendix to ditto - -	112 1 0	3	- 5	35½	- 8	197½	- 7	179½
Agricultural Class Book - -	215 10 10	5	- 9	74	1 8	247½	1 -	165
Scripture Lessons, four series, each - -	120 4 0	4	- 5	79½	- 8	177½	- 7	125
Lessons on Truth of Christianity	77 17 5	4	- 4	114	- 6	201	- 6	164
Sacred Poetry - -	38 8 6	5	- 3	227½	- 4	357	- 3	303½

3. Average profit on proposed prices in numbers - - - - 84½ per cent.
 5. " on Commissioners' present prices for single copies - - - 214½ "
 7. " on Commissioners' proposed prices for single copies - - - 107½ "

Note.—The prices of the books marked thus (*) have been slightly raised to schools, as the demand for them is more limited than for the others, and the expense of printing them greater.

The prices on all for single copies it will be seen are considerably reduced, with the exception of the "Art of Reading," which is difficult to print, and in only limited demand.

Education Office, Dublin,
18 January 1852.

(signed) Maurice Cross, }
James Kelly, } Secretaries.

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS.

11

(B.)

RETURN showing the CIRCULATION of the IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS, &c., for Six Months; viz., from 1 July to 31 December 1881.

NAME OF BOOK.	NATIONAL SCHOOLS.		Free Schools in Great Britain and Ireland, unconnected with the National Board.	Agricult.	Gral. Inst.	Total.	Probable Circulation for 12 Months.
	Sales at Reduced Prices.	Per. Quarts.					
First Book of Lessons - - -	79,055	13,572	18,524	19,800	62	117,523	266,000
Second Book of Lessons - - -	35,814	7,037	14,604	16,786	65	74,605	158,800
Sequel to ditto, No. 1 - - -	7,318	420	500	800	07	9,146	19,400
Sequel to ditto, No. 2 - - -	7,002	3,163	6,841	4,100	07	21,313	43,000
Third Book of Lessons - - -	9,840	5,036	8,013	15,000	78	37,322	76,600
Fourth ditto - - - - -	4,470	1,977	3,071	5,850	64	24,322	47,400
Supplement to ditto - - - -	254	507	1,251	849	64	2,815	6,100
Fifth Book - - - - -	1,048	689	9,016	2,500	03	6,919	14,200
Sixth ditto - - - - -	383	634	1,519	712	63	3,492	7,100
Biographical Sketches - - -	949	324	51	212	71	1,533	3,500
British Poets, Vol. 1 - - -	557	266	85	422	79	1,300	3,000
British Poets, Vol. 2 - - -	-	-	Reprinting	-	12	12	-
Introduction to Art of Reading - -	114	359	149	212	60	804	1,800
English Grammar - - - -	4,403	1,837	3,693	2,709	82	12,415	26,000
Key to ditto - - - - -	171	339	973	84	61	1,468	3,000
First Arithmetic - - - - -	6,608	2,788	4,905	9,350	63	23,751	49,000
Key to ditto - - - - -	193	598	271	465	32	1,519	3,000
Arithmetic in Theory, &c. - - -	1,273	869	810	302	63	3,457	6,100
Book-keeping - - - - -	608	808	781	1,295	61	3,495	6,300
Key to ditto - - - - -	973	301	422	345	66	1,805	3,700
Egyptian, &c. - - - - -	590	347	385	421	66	1,600	3,200
Compendium, &c. - - - - -	568	381	3,732	839	63	4,705	9,800
Elements of Geometry - - -	64	176	181	169	61	632	1,000
Mensuration - - - - -	740	282	1,110	229	63	2,454	4,300
Appendix to ditto - - - -	111	181	211	174	63	719	1,600
Scripture Lessons (O. T.), No. 1 -	129	344	60	-	73	626	1,400
Ditto, No. 2 - - - - -	186	298	40	-	73	637	1,500
Ditto (N. T.), No. 1 - - - -	166	289	40	-	78	628	1,500
Ditto (N. T.), No. 2 - - - -	143	276	40	-	79	580	1,500
Selected Poetry - - - - -	244	406	42	325	60	1,164	2,500
Lessons on Truth of Christianity -	79	106	67	130	61	524	1,200
Agricultural Class Book - - -	393	466	979	206	79	1,490	3,300

Note.—In estimating the "probable circulation for 12 months," an addition has been made, in consequence of more than half of the free grants having been issued prior to the 1st of July.

The estimate may be considered as rather under, than over, the probable demand.

Education Office, Dublin,
16 January 1882.

(Signed) *Monroe Cross*, } Secretaries.
James Kelly, }

The Lords of her Majesty's Treasury to the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, 15 March 1852.

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you herewith a letter from the Comptroller of the Stationery-office, of the 3d ultimo, on the subject of the sale of the Irish National School-books in this country, and I have to request you will favour my Lords with your opinion thereon.

I have, &c.

The Commissioners of National Education, Ireland.

(signed) G. A. Hamilton.

(Enclosure.)

Sir,

Stationery Office, 3 February 1852.

I HAVE the honour to return the Report of the Commissioners of Education in Dublin, with the accompanying papers; and in compliance with your directions, I beg to submit the following remarks thereon, for the consideration of the Lords of her Majesty's Treasury.

I would beg, however, to be permitted at the outset to state that the publication of school books is a matter in regard to which I have no practical knowledge, and the remarks I have to offer are derived only from some acquaintance with publication generally.

The object, I presume, which Government has in view is to supply approved school-books at the lowest prices. Now this object may, I should think, be attained in some such manner as is suggested by the Commissioners of Education. There seems, however, to be a great deal of unnecessary detail and regulation in their scheme. The system, to work well and give satisfaction to the public, should be simple, and involve the principle of fair and open competition; and the plan I had the honour to suggest, in my letter to you of the 18th May 1851, appears to me to combine these advantages, and is indeed, to a considerable extent, identical with that proposed by the Commissioners. In substance, it was as follows, viz.:

That Government, having approved of a work as suitable to be used in schools, should get a sheet or an entire copy of it printed and bound as a standard, and that they should submit the supply of a certain number of copies of such work to the competition of the public. The standard copy of the work might be deposited with the Committee of the Privy Council on Education, or in this office, and a functionary might be appointed, as suggested by the Commissioners, to see that the work was got up in all respects similarly to the model.

The adoption of a plan of this sort would be a very simple affair, and it would make an end of some at least of the objections which the trade have made to the present system. But it appears to me to be indispensable, in order to enable the plan to be easily and successfully carried out, that the number to be printed should be specified, and that they should not be contingent on the fluctuations of demand. Any uncertainty of this sort would greatly increase the cost of the books, and it should consequently be avoided.

I should also object to the contracts embracing any portion of time. I would limit them to jobs. Suppose, for example, that the History of Rome, by A. B., is adopted as a school-book, and that a model copy is prepared; then I should merely propose advertising for tenders for a supply of 10,000, 50,000, or 100,000 copies of such book, the numbers being proportional to the supposed demand for the next three or four years, when a new contract might be made. Under a system of this sort, a tradesman would know exactly what he was about; he would run no risk of any kind, and the competition would be an intense among printers and publishers, that the books would be supplied at the lowest possible cost.

It may be objected, perhaps, that under a plan of this sort Government might occasionally get a supply on hand of works for which there was no demand. But with due discretion in the arrangement of the contracts, there would be little risk of this; and such surplus copies as were, after all, accumulated, might be sold to the public with very little, if any, loss.

I do not think it would be at all necessary to defer the commencement of this system to the termination of the contract of the Messrs. Grierson. Government is not bound to send them a single book to print, and supposing they were so bound, the sums on which Messrs. Grierson have taken their contract are so extremely, or rather ruinously low, that their claim to compensation would be of the most trifling description.

Under the plan I have ventured to suggest, not a word would have to be said as to prices. These would be fixed by Government after the contracts were made. But to prevent any just complaint on the part of the trade, the prices, when fixed, should include a liberal allowance for copyright over and above the ordinary trade profits on the cost of the works.

Under a system of this sort, Government might purchase any published work they thought proper for their purposes; but, as a general rule, the less they have to do in these

matiers

matters the better. And though the plan now suggested be, perhaps, no little objectionable as any that could be proposed, still I am not sanguine enough to believe that it is not open to such question.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. R. McCulloch, Comptroller.

G. Cornwall Lewis, Esq., &c.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPLY OF COMMISSIONERS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Sir,

Education Office, Dublin, 1 April 1862.

We have had the honour of receiving and laying before the Commissioners of National Education your letter of the 18th ultimo, enclosing a copy of a communication addressed to G. Cornwall Lewis, Esq., late Secretary to the Treasury, by J. R. McCulloch, Esq., Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, containing remarks on the plan recommended by the Committee appointed by the Commissioners of National Education for the future publication and sale of the Irish National School-books.

Mr. McCulloch's letter having been referred to the Committee for their opinion, they have reported, that his suggestions are open to serious objections, and not calculated to effect the desired objects, namely, reasonable prices, and a certainty that the supply of books to meet the increasing demand would be regular and abundant.

The Committee disapprove of Mr. McCulloch's proposition that the contracts should be limited to "Jobs." A plan of this kind was adopted (owing to the necessity of the case) when the Commissioners commenced publishing their books; but having been found to be attended with great inconvenience, was finally abandoned.

The Committee also differ from Mr. McCulloch, in his opinion, that the contract should not embrace a specified time; on the contrary, they deem it indispensable that it should be continued for a period of at least five or seven years.

It appears to the Committee that the frequent renewal of the contract would necessarily increase the cost of producing the books; would create insuperable obstacles in the way of keeping up an adequate supply to meet the large demand, and would preclude the Commissioners from having a fixed scale of prices.

The Committee are satisfied that no contractor would be willing to incur the great expense necessary to print, or bind even a large quantity of the books, if his contract were limited to the "Job," and Mr. McCulloch himself (in a communication addressed last May to G. C. Lewis, Esq.) suggested that the contract should be taken for five or seven years; but that it should not exceed that time, as in the interval improvements might be made in the manufacture of books.

The Committee see no grounds for altering their recommendation that the price of each book shall not exceed the maximum to be specified in the advertisement for tenders, the Committee conceiving that the rate of profit stated in the Schedule would be sufficiently large to cover all the expenses to which the contractor would be liable.

If the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury think it desirable to disturb the present contract for printing the National School-books, before its termination in December 1865, the Committee beg to reiterate the opinion expressed in their former correspondence, that the claims of the Messrs. Grierson are entitled to the most favourable consideration.

The Committee, after a careful review of all the circumstances connected with this difficult and important question, feel bound to adhere to the plan which they have already recommended, with the modification proposed by Mr. Lingin with the approval of the Committee of Council on Education; namely, that there should be a single contract for supplying the public as well as the Commissioners of National Education, and a single supervision.

The Committee beg respectfully to impress upon the Lords of the Treasury the necessity of coming to a speedy decision on this matter, which has been so long under consideration. And it is requested that any alteration which their

Lordships deem it desirable to make in the plan already submitted, may be laid before the Committee of the National Board for their consideration.

In conclusion we are to state, that the Commissioners present at the last meeting of the Board approve of the opinions expressed by the Committee on Mr. McCulloch's letter.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Maurice Cross,*
James Kelly, } Secretaries.

G. A. Hamilton, Esq., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

The Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland.

Treasury Chambers,
24 Nov. 1852.

My Lords and Gentlemen,
I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit herewith for your information and guidance, copy of a minute of this Board, dated 12th instant, relative to the future publication and sale of the Irish National School-books.

The Commissioners of
National Education, Ireland.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. A. Hamilton.*

Copy of Treasury Minute, dated 12 November 1852.

READ letters from the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, dated 24th January and 1st April last, and also correspondence respecting the publication of the school-books by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, as set forth in their 17th Report, and in Parliamentary Paper, No. 130, Session 1852, and my Lords having fully considered the same, are pleased to direct:

1. That the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland shall furnish to the Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery-office a list of the books for the publication of which tenders are to be invited, and a statement of the number of copies of each, which the parties who shall be declared contractors are to be bound in their contracts to supply during each year of their continuance (the contracts to be for five years), distinguishing the number likely to be required for the schools in connexion with the National Board, and the numbers to be fixed in reference the probable demand for all purposes.

2. In order to maintain scrupulously and without change the essential and distinguishing character of the National School-books, a copy of each book intended for publication shall be deposited with my Lords as a standard; the contractor to be bound to produce each book in perfect accordance with such standards as regards paper and presswork; the proof to be corrected by an officer to be appointed by my Lords for the purpose, and to be verified by his signature or initials.

3. In the event of the Commissioners deeming it expedient to make any alterations in any book or work, the cost of making such alterations shall be determined by a scale or rate in a schedule to the contracts.

4. The supplying of new books or works, or of a greater quantity than the number specified, shall be also provided for in the contract.

5. The tender shall be for the supply of the National School-books in sheets for the use of the Commissioners, and in such quantities as shall be required by them; the sheets to be delivered free of expense at the stores of the Commissioners; and for the supply of the same books bound according to specification for the use of all other parties, such books to be delivered free of expense at the stores of Her Majesty's Stationery-office, or at a warehouse in Dublin appointed for their reception.

6. The

6. The contracts being made, and the cost of the production, so far as regards paper, printing, binding, &c., being ascertained, it is the intention of my Lords to add a reasonable sum for copyright, compilation, and composition, and to add further a sum of 10 per cent. for management and conduct of sale, and then to fix the price accordingly at which each book shall be sold to the trade, or to private parties taking more than a certain number of copies, as herein provided, such sales being for ready money only.

7. In order, however, to admit of booksellers and of the trade selling the books to the public at a fair profit, the price to the public shall be fixed at 25 or 30 per cent. above the trade price, that is, above their cost, including management.

8. An allowance also of 10 per cent. to be made to parties not in the trade taking quantities, as set forth in a schedule to be prepared.

9. The Commissioners of National Education in Ireland to sell or distribute their books to their own schools, as they shall deem expedient.

10. The Commissioners of National Education in Ireland to be supplied with books, at their cost price, including the 10 per cent. for management.

11. The contractors to find two sureties each for the due performance of their contracts, in sums proportioned to the probable value of the contracts to be specified by my Lords, but that they shall not exceed 5 per cent. on such probable value.

12. The cost of the books to be defrayed by the Commissioners out of the Education vote, through the Stationery-office, or in such manner as my Lords may direct, and the proceeds of all sales to be brought to the credit of the Commissioners.

13. The Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery-office will prepare forms of tender, in conformity with the foregoing instructions, and take the proper steps for advertising the contract.

14. My Lords will make arrangements by which the sale of the books shall be conducted by an officer of Her Majesty's Stationery-office in Dublin.

REPLY.

Education Office, Dublin,

11 December 1852.

Sir,

We have had the honour of laying before the Commissioners of National Education your letter of the 24th ultimo, transmitting for their information and guidance, copy of a Minute of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, dated 12th November, relative to the future publication and sale of the Irish National School books.

The Commissioners understand from the Minute laid before them,

1st. That they are to be supplied with books in sheets for the use of the Irish National Schools at the cost price, including the 10 per cent. for management, to be delivered free of expense into the stores of the Commissioners; that they will be at liberty to select the party who shall hereafter bind their books in whatever manner they may think best; and that they may sell or distribute their books to their own schools as they shall deem expedient.

2d. That the cost of printing, binding, &c., of all the books is to be defrayed by the Commissioners out of the funds placed from time to time at their disposal by Parliament, and that the proceeds of all sales, both to the Irish National Schools and to the public at large, are to be brought to the credit of the Board.

The Commissioners direct us to acquaint you, that upon the above understanding the arrangement proposed for the publication of the books of the Board, and for the supply of them to the Irish National Schools, is deemed satisfactory.

With regard to the plan to be adopted by direction of their Lordships for the sale of these books to all other parties, the Commissioners earnestly hope that

it will effectually secure low prices, and a certainty of a regular and abundant supply.

The Commissioners, however, desire it may be understood that they consider themselves exonerated from all responsibility as to the results of the plan which their Lordships have sanctioned.

It is very desirable that the new arrangement should come into operation at as early a period as is practicable in the ensuing year, in order that the Commissioners may be enabled to give timely notice of the change to the managers of national schools, agents, &c., and to make such alterations in their own department as the circumstances of the case may require.

The Commissioners will feel obliged if they can be permitted to see the tenders and the schedule of prices before their Lordships finally decide upon them.

In compliance with their Lordships' direction, a return has been prepared of the number of books which will probably be required for one year's consumption, which shall be forwarded to the Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery-office, London, on Monday next, 13th instant, together with a copy of each book intended for publication, to be deposited with their Lordships as a standard for the contractor.

We are directed, in conclusion, to express the high sense which the Commissioners entertain of the sincere desire you have manifested since this important matter came under your consideration, to meet their wishes, and to settle the question at issue upon a basis satisfactory to all parties.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Maurice Cross,*
James Kelly, } Secretaries.

G. A. Hamilton, Esq. M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

The Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to the Commissioners of National
Education, Ireland.

COPY of Treasury Minute, dated 17 December 1852.

Wrote to the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland, that my Lords have transmitted the specimen books, forwarded with their letter of the 14th instant, to the Comptroller of the Stationery-office, with instructions to have the contracts advertised for with as little delay as possible, and that my Lords hope all the arrangements may be very shortly completed for the publication of the National School-books, according to the proposed new system.

My Lords read their Minute of 12th November, in which they state their intention to appoint an officer for the purpose of correcting the proof of each book intended for publication, and in order to maintain scrupulously, and without change, the essential and distinguishing character of these books.

It appears to my Lords to be very desirable that the officer so to be appointed should be not only highly competent to correct the press, but that he should likewise be a gentleman in whom the Commissioners have implicit confidence, and whose long period of service under the National Board, and experience in the administration of the system, would point him out as the most eligible person to be appointed, and with this view my Lords are pleased to appoint Mr. Maurice Cross, trusting that his appointment will be acceptable to the Commissioners, and that the functions in correcting the press will be found not inconsistent with his duties as one of their secretaries, the more especially as my Lords have reason to suppose that he has on several occasions been employed in a similar manner.

My Lords are pleased to assign a salary of 120*l.* a year for this service, to commence from the 1st January 1853.

My Lords read also that portion of their Minute of 12th November, in which they state that arrangements will be made by which the sale of the National School-books to the public shall be conducted by an officer of Her Majesty's Stationery-office in Dublin.

Having

Having regard to the responsibility of the officer so to be appointed, and to the extent of his duties, my Lords direct that he shall find security for the due discharge of his duties, and for the property committed to his charge, as well as for the payment of all sums received by him for sales of books, by bond or recognizance, himself in the sum of 1,000*l.*, with a security for the same amount.

My Lords further direct that an account shall be opened in the name of Her Majesty's Comptroller of the Stationery-office in the Bank of Ireland for the Irish National School-books, and that all sums received for sales shall be lodged at least once each week, or oftener if necessary, to that account, and be paid once monthly to the Commissioners, as they shall direct.

The Comptroller of the Stationery-office will report to my Lords as to the arrangements which he thinks it will be expedient to make in reference to the storing and sale of the books; and the officer for superintending the sales will consider himself responsible, not only for the conduct of the sales, but for the superintendence and management of the whole of this department, under the direction of the Comptroller of the Stationery-office.

My Lords are pleased to assign a salary of 300*l.* a year for this office, and to appoint Mr. David McCulloch, now one of the district paymasters under the Board of Works at Cavan, to that office.

State further to the Commissioners that the Superintendent of the National School-books at the Stationery-office, Dublin, will be considered responsible for having a supply of books at all times ready for their purposes, as well as for the use of the public, on a requisition from the Commissioners; that it is my Lords' desire that the Commissioners shall continue to pay, as they now do, the contractor's accounts through the Stationery-office, such account to comprise all books printed as aforesaid.

My Lords suggest to the Commissioners that it will be expedient forthwith to sell such standing forms and types as may now be in their possession.

Write to the Comptroller of the Stationery-office that my Lords transmit to him the standard copies of the National School-books; my Lords desire he will take charge of them, and adopt the necessary means for having the contracts advertised with as little delay as possible.

State to him that the Commissioners of National Education request that they may be permitted to see the tenders, and also the schedule of prices, before my Lords finally decide upon them, and my Lords direct that they shall be forwarded to them accordingly.

Transmit copy of the Commissioners' letter of 14th December 1852, with its enclosure, for the information of the Comptroller of the Stationery-office, together with the standard copies of the National School-books.

The Commissioners of National Education, *Ireland*, to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury.

Sir,

Education Office, Dublin, 3 January 1853.

We are directed by the Commissioners of National Education to transmit to you the enclosed extract from the minutes of their proceedings on the 31st ultimo, for the information of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Maurice Croft,* } Secretaries.
James Kelly, }

G. A. Hamilton, Esq., M. P.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure.)

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Commissioners of National Education; dated 31 December 1852.

"The secretary reads that portion of the Minute of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, dated the 17th December 1852, with reference to the appointment of an officer to correct the proofs of the books intended for publication by the Board of National Education.

"The following Minute is proposed by the Right honourable Baron Grosvenor, and unanimously adopted by the Board.

"With reference to the foregoing communication from the Lords of the Treasury, the Commissioners are desirous of recording their sincere gratification at the announcement made of the selection of their senior secretary for the discharge of the duties specified in Mr. Hamilton's letter. The Commissioners regard this appointment not only as complimentary to themselves, but also as an expression of the high testimony of their Lordships to the valuable public services, tried ability, and exemplary character of Mr. Cross, a testimony in full accordance with the opinion long entertained by the Board of that gentleman's merits and qualifications, and of the zeal, fidelity, and judgment which have uniformly characterised the performance of his official duties. Ordered, That a copy of the above minute be sent to G. A. Hamilton, Esq., &c., for the information of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury."

The Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office to the Commissioners of National Education.

(No. 1.)

Gentlemen,

Stationery Office, 31 December 1852.

I enclose for the observation of the Commissioners of Education a proof of the proposed particulars of contract for the supply of the school books prepared by the Commissioners.

I beg, also, to state with reference to these particulars, that they have been framed as nearly as possible in accordance with the minutes and instructions of the Treasury; and with a desire by making them clear and simple, to avoid or cut short all questions that may arise in regard to their interpretation.

It is not intended that the lowest bidder should be taken, unless they happen to be otherwise unexceptionable.

I have to request that you will be so good as to return me these particulars, with such remarks as you may have to offer, with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. R. McCulloch,

Comptroller,

Maurice Cross and James Kelly, Esquires.

(No. 2.)

Gentlemen,

Stationery Office, 3 January 1853.

With reference to my letter of the 31st ultimo, I beg to state that the only thing in which the particulars of contract differ from the Treasury Minute of the 12th November, is the clause directing that the books for the Commissioners, as well as those for the public, should be delivered bound.

Mr. Hamilton, the late Secretary to the Treasury, approved of this alteration. It was made partly to simplify the arrangements, and partly to save expense. That it will have the former effect is obvious, and there can be no doubt that it will lessen the cost of the books, inasmuch as the proportional charge for binding, as well as printing, is lessened according as the numbers of books to be bound and printed are increased.

The

The same cost of superintendence, and of several other incidents required to bind 1,000,000 books will serve to bind 2,000,000, so that there is always a considerable advantage in having them executed in large numbers; and by having them all executed together, their identity will be better preserved, and they will have the exact form which the Commissioners are desirous they should possess.

I would, therefore, beg to express a hope that they will approve of the proposed arrangement.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. R. McCulloch,*

Comptroller.

Maurice Cross and James Kelly, Esquires.

REPLY.

Sir,

Education Office, Dublin, 8 January 1863.

We have laid before the Commissioners of National Education your letter of the 31st ultimo, enclosing the particulars of the contract or contracts for the supply of the books published under the authority of the Commissioners, &c., and also your letter of the 3d instant.

The Commissioners approve of the terms of the contract, and also that the books should be delivered bound.

The Commissioners are very anxious that tenders for the supply of books should be procured without delay, in order that no time may be lost in bringing the new arrangements into operation.

The Commissioners presume that you will, at the proper time, adopt whatever measures may be necessary for giving publicity to the new arrangements, and for acquainting all parties how they are to proceed in future, in order to procure the books published for the use of the Irish National Schools.

We are, &c.

(signed) *Maurice Cross,* } Secretaries.
James Kelly, }

J. R. McCulloch, Esq.,
&c. &c.

The Commissioners of National Education to the Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Sir,

Education Office, Dublin, 23 May 1863.

I HAVE felt it my duty to bring under the notice of the Commissioners of National Education the proposed advertisement of the change as to the supply of the National School-books to the public, &c.

The Commissioners consider it very important that in any advertisement that may be issued it should appear that the new arrangements for the sale of the books have been made on the responsibility of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, and in conformity with their Lordships' Minutes.

The Commissioners therefore suggest that this should be stated in the advertisement; and also, that from the date specified, the Commissioners are confined exclusively to the supply of books for the use of the Irish National Schools only.

I remain, &c.

(signed) *Maurice Cross,*
Secretary.

J. R. McCulloch, Esq.,
&c. &c.

REPLY.

Sir,

Stationery Office, 30 May 1853.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, in regard to the advertisement of the Irish educational books.

Owing to Mr. Wilson's illness, a day or two elapsed before I could submit your letter to his consideration. The advertisement being dated Stationery-office, which is a subordinate department of the Treasury, Mr. Wilson did not think any farther statement was necessary to show that the new arrangements were authorised by their Lordships.

He adopted your other suggestion in regard to the statement, that the Commissioners are to be confined, from the 4th July next, to the supplying of their own schools with books.

The minimum value of books to be sold to private parties has been raised to 10s.; and the advertisement has been ordered to be inserted in all the leading British and Irish journals.

I am, &c.

(signed) J. R. McCulloch,
Comptroller.

To Maurice Cross, Esq., &c.

(Advertisement.)

IRISH EDUCATIONAL BOOKS.

Notice is hereby given, that from and after the 4th of July next, the School-books used by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, may be obtained from the office, Mark-lane, Dublin, for ready money only, by the trade (and by private persons ordering them in quantities of the value of 10 l and upwards), at the undermentioned prices. From the above date the Commissioners will supply no books except to the Irish National Schools.

NAMES OF BOOKS.	PRICES.	NAMES OF BOOKS.	PRICES.
	s. d.		s. d.
First book of Lessons - - -	- 4	Arithmetic in theory and practice -	7
Second ditto - - -	- 3	Book-keeping - - -	- 4
Sequel to second book, No. 1 -	- 3	Key to ditto - - -	- 3
Ditto ditto, No. 2 - - -	- 3	Epitome of Geography - - -	- 10
Fourth book of Lessons - - -	- 7	Compendium of ditto - - -	- 3
Supplement to fourth book - -	- 8	Elements of Geometry - - -	- 3
Fifth book of Lessons - - -	- 7	Mensuration - - -	- 5
Girls' Reading-book - - -	- 7	Appendix to ditto - - -	- 4
Biographical Sketches of British Poets - - -	- 9	Scripture Lessons Old Testament, No. 1. - - -	- 4
Selections from British Poets, Vol. 1 -	- 8	Ditto ditto No. 2. - - -	- 4
Ditto ditto Vol. 2 - - -	- 9	Ditto New Testament, No. 1 - -	- 4
Introduction to the Art of Reading -	- 5	Ditto ditto No. 2 - - -	- 4
English Grammar - - -	- 3	Sacred Poetry - - -	- 1
Key to ditto - - -	- 4	Lessons on Truths of Christianity -	- 2
Third book of Lessons - - -	- 6	Agricultural Chess-book - - -	- 6
First Arithmetic - - -	- 3	Farm Account-book - - -	1 2
Key to ditto - - -	- 3	Treatise on Needlework - - -	1 7

Stationery Office,
27 May 1853.

II.—NAMES and Places of Abode of the Agents hitherto employed by the said Commissioners for the Supply of these Books, whether to the National Schools, or to the Public, with the Data and Amount of their Remuneration, the Value of Books supplied to or sold by such Agents, and the Amount received as the Proceeds of such Sales, during each of the last Ten Years.

* Value of Books supplied to the Agents for Sale to the Public National Schools supplied by the Commissioners only.

NAME OF AGENT.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.
R. Greenbridge & Sons	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
London -	639 14 -	669 10 10	748 16 4	890 10 11	1,045 8 3	1,609 7 8	1,540 10 -	2,174 14 -	2,305 17 8	3,160 4 -
Wm. Curry, Jun. & Co.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Dublin -	316 10 4	270 8 8	335 12 5	290 1 8	802 13 0	197 - 4	256 12 5	353 14 -	185 - 1	165 9 8
Fraser & Co.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Edinburgh -	838 12 10	360 17 1	630 3 6	494 6 -	715 2 0	421 7 3	692 - 10	1,045 15 4	1,091 12 6	1,239 7 11
Geo. Philip & Son	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Liverpool -	93 18 8	64 16 9	163 13 9	69 15 5	162 12 4	273 13 9	314 10 11	818 13 3	466 18 5	546 13 -

Agents received from Agents.

NAME OF AGENT.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.
R. Greenbridge & Sons	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
London -	558 11 9	541 11 8	509 - -	852 10 -	1,322 13 5	1,652 4 11	1,421 - 3	2,223 1 11	2,197 11 10	2,654 15 4
Wm. Curry, Jun. & Co.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Dublin -	273 13 6	225 12 5	251 10 0	276 6 5	247 1 11	174 18 8	360 14 7	225 7 8	158 19 2	172 13 4
Fraser & Co.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Edinburgh -	441 0 0	318 10 5	505 17 -	312 3 6	531 5 7	507 10 9	652 5 4	895 2 11	1,116 5 1	1,165 11 0
Geo. Philip & Son	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Liverpool -	55 12 2	38 15 -	100 10 7	105 13 -	157 7 7	187 14 4	268 5 2	209 16 0	300 18 -	377 5 9

Note.—The Commissioners are not able to state the amount of remuneration obtained by their agents, as the agents were not bound to sell the books to all parties on the same terms. The terms on which the books were supplied to the agents by the Commissioners have been at various times altered, but the allowance has been throughout about the same, namely, 5d per cent. below the selling price to the public, out of which the agents have had to make the usual allowance to the trade.

* In this Return the prices at which the books were invoiced to the agents have been regarded as the value.

III.—NAMES of any Persons who have been Appointed in consequence of the New Arrangements, the Nature of their Duties, and the Amount of their SALARIES.

NAMES.	NATURE OF DUTIES.	SALARIES.
Maurice Cross - - -	To read and correct proofs of every reprint of the books published by the Commissioners	£ 120 per annum.
David McCulloch - - -	To superintend the sale of the National School-books to the public	£ 300 per annum.

Note.—See Treasury Minute, dated 17 December 1852, in Correspondence; and Statement attached, prepared by the Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, showing the cost without and with an allowance for copyright and management, and the prices to the trade per copy, of each of the books published by the Commissioners of National Education. The selling prices fixed being intended to secure a profit to the Commissioners after payment of the above Salaries, and all other expenses.

Education Office, Dublin,
August 1853.

(signed) Maurice Cross,
James Kelly, } Secretaries.

ACCOUNT of the Cost, without and with an Allowance for Copyright and Management, of the SCHOOL BOOKS published by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, under the New Contract.

NAMES OF BOOKS.	Contract Cost per 1,000 Copies.	Contract Cost per Copy.	Copyright £ s d per Copy.	Net Cost per Copy.	10 per Cent., Management, &c.	Price to Trade per Copy.	Price to the Trade per Copy, estimated by Commissioners of National Education.
CONTRACT LIST No. 1.—JOHN FALCONER, DUBLIN.							
First Book of Lessons - - -	1 18 -	1-024	0450	1-069	18100	1-0560	- 1
Second - ditto - - -	9 7 -	2-076	2244	2-1004	22304	2-12044	- 2
Sequel to Second Book, No. 1 -	10 19 -	2-178	3544	2-1404	1-06304	2-147844	- 3
Ditto - ditto - No. 2 -	10 13 -	2-124	2655	2-1478	1-04796	2-152700	- 3

CONTRACT LIST No. 2.—ALEXANDER THOM, DUBLIN.

Fourth Book of Lessons - - -	23 8 8	5-150	56235	5-10845	1-30845	6-117005	- 7
Supplement to Fourth Book -	28 2 8	6-120	8740	6-1670	1-16708	7-148788	- 8
Fifth Book of Lessons - - -	26 8 7	4-137	8340	6-1060	1-06003	7-00003	- 7
Girls' Reading Book - - -	26 8 7	6-137	8340	6-1060	1-06003	7-00003	- 7
Biographical Sketches of British Poets - - -	31 - 7	7-178	7447	7-1637	1-01227	8-18007	- 9
Selections from British Poets, Vol. 1	29 5 8	7-112	7608	7-8148	1-06148	7-10028	- 8
Ditto - ditto - Vol. 2	29 7 6	8-042	86105	8-04203	1-064203	9-107355	- 9
Introduction to the Art of Reading	17 10 7	4-126	4815	4-16915	1-16915	4-16005	- 6
English Grammar - - -	0 14 4	2-128	2832	2-15018	1-05012	2-15132	- 3
Key to ditto - - -	1 16 10	1-708	0442	1-8122	18122	1-00842	- 1

CONTRACT

NAMES OF BOOKS	Contract Cost per 1,000 Copies.	Contract Cost per Copy.	Copyright, 2½ per Cent.	Net Cost per Copy.	10 per Cent Management, &c.	Price to Trade per Copy.	Price to the Trade per Copy, estimated by Commissioners of National Education.
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CONTRACT LIST No. 2.—ALEXANDER THOM, DUBLIN.

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Third Book of Lessons - - -	10	19	7½	4½-182	47963	4½-56155	½-868125	5½-027763	-	3
First Arithmetic - - -	8	15	3	2-432	23100	2-5225	½-0225	5½-48453	-	3
Key to ditto - - -	9	14	4½	2½-33	23335	2½-56025	½-86865	5½-619675	-	3
Arithmetic in Theory and Practice	65	16	2	0-776	6194	6½-3051	½-13654	6½-93494	-	7
Book-keeping - - -	12	9	8	2½-984	2028	3-2833	½-59690	2½-44126	-	4
Key to ditto - - -	11	17	2	2½-184	2846	2½-6936	½-19946	3-63545	-	3
Epitome of Geography - -	37	8	10	8½-544	8686	9-8426	2-34426	10-52946	-	16
Compendium of ditto - -	10	13	2	9½-292	6568	9½-4878	½-04679	2½-52646	-	3
Elements of Geometry - -	10	14	-	2½-372	9568	2½-5988	½-52268	2½-58368	-	3
Mensuration - - -	18	17	2	4½-194	4526	4½-5505	½-55005	5-41865	-	5
Appendix to ditto - - -	18	9	11½	9½-660	23133	2½-90353	½-160353	2½-146003	-	4
Scripture Lessons, Old Test., No. 1	18	0	8	9½-984	2096	3-2633	½-59830	2½-51160	-	4
Ditto - ditto - No. 2	18	-	5	3-5	3125	3-8195	½-58195	2½-66875	-	4
Ditto - New Test., No. 1	18	12	9	8½-002	3273	8½-4193	½-94193	2½-79123	-	4
Ditto - ditto - No. 2	18	-	5	3-5	3125	3-8195	½-58125	2½-66875	-	4
Sacred Poetry - - -	2	18	0	½-736	3609	½-9425	2-3685	2-19949	-	1
Lessons on Truths of Christianity -	7	11	2½	1½-258	18146	1½-42945	7-13945	9-183395	-	3
Agricultural Class Book - -	21	10	6½	5-986	61465	5½-18235	½-118005	2½-94615	-	6
Farm Account Book - - -	23	-	-	1,0½-92	½-949	1,0½-108	1½-1168	1,0½-2848	1	9
Treatise on Needlework - -	69	18	8	1,4½-896	½-6734	1,6-5684	1½-82084	1,0½-43524	1	7

Stationery Office,
16 February 1855.

(signed) J. R. McCulloch,
Comptroller.

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS.

COPIES of TREASURY MEMORS and CONSIDERATION on the subject of the recent or intended Changes in the Mode of Preparation, Publication, and Supply of the Irish NATIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS; of the Names and Remuneration of the Agents employed by the Commissioners, &c.

(Mr. CONN.)

Ordered by The House of Commons, to be Printed
16 August 1853.

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